

M104710103
cc: Leslie



SENATOR
KEVIN T. VAN TASSELL

TWENTY-SIXTH DISTRICT
DAGGETT, DUCHESNE, SUMMIT,
UINTAH and WASATCH COUNTIES

UTAH STATE SENATE

W115 STATE CAPITOL COMPLEX • SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH 84114-5115
(801) 538-1035 • FAX (801) 326-1475

3424 W. 1500 N.
VERNAL, UT 84078
(H) (435) 789-0724
(O) (435) 789-7082
(F) (435) 789-8411
email: kvantassell@utahsenate.org

November 22, 2011

Via Postal Delivery and Electronic Mail (danadean@utah.gov)

Ms. Dana Dean, P.E.,
Associate Director Mining
Division of Oil Gas and Mining
1594 West North Temple
Suite 1210
PO Box 145801
Salt Lake, City, UT 84114-5001

RECEIVED E-Mail

NOV 22 2011

Div. of Oil, Gas & Mining

Re: Comments Red Leaf Resources Application for Large Mining Operations in Utah, M470103

Dear Ms Dean:

As Utah State Senator for the Uintah Basin I want to take the opportunity to write this letter in support of Red Leaf Resource's Application for a large mine for purposes of developing oil shale resources in the Uinta Basin. The development of these resources can produce significant economic benefits for the county and for the state. I believe that these resources can be developed and can be produced through environmentally sustainable practices.

Development of the Utah oil shale resources provides an opportunity for unparalleled economic benefit to our County and our State and the Nation. Economic benefits will accrue in the form of direct state, local and federal taxes with indirect benefits; and growth realized in secondary markets for labor, resources, and the multitude of complimentary and supportive industries. Socio-economic gains will realize as resource development provides long-term stable economics and employment within our community and our neighboring communities.

I understand that the Red Leaf project has the potential to create approximately 200 new direct jobs as it expands its operations. Mining operations tend to provide long-term, high paying employment, and stable employment mitigating the cyclical nature of employment in other sectors. As a mining operation with a 23-year life of mine currently planned, Red Leaf is poised to deliver such long-term, stable employment for our community and our economy.

Utah is home to roughly 330 billion barrels of in-place oil shale resource. In the face of rising energy prices and increased global competition for energy resources, it is time to critically assess how the United States will provide for long-term adequate supply of energy resources. Oil shale development can and should be part of the solution. The oil shale resources in Utah alone are 1.5 times the size of the proven oil reserves in Saudi Arabia. The only path to determining the proven reserves in Utah is to allow for successful commercial development. If only 50% of Utah the Utah resource proves to be economically and technically feasible to develop, the reserve would significantly surpass the current estimated U.S. oil reserve of 21 billion barrels and place

our country in the top five countries for proven oil reserves. With the vast deposits of oil shale and its commitment to energy development and sustainability, Utah is in a unique position to advance greater national energy and economic security through development of these resources.

I appreciate that some are concerned about the environmental consequences of developing oil shale resources. I believe that these resources can be developed in a manner that protects the environment and supports Utah's core environmental values. Many of the technology options and those likely to be commercially viable exhibit the following characteristics:

- No process water is used
- Low emissions heating options are utilized with potential for recycling and other heating efficiencies
- Processes can allow for rapid reclamation and reduced surface disturbance
- Depleted shale, although not exhibiting hazardous characteristics, can be environmentally managed or impounded
- CO₂ output can be significantly reduced with low temperature processes, utilization of low CO₂ emitting heating fuels (such as natural gas)
- Opportunities exist for carbon capture and sequestration and technologies develop and become economic
- Sound methods exist to protect surface water and aquifers

I am familiar with the Red Leaf processes and believes that the Company's central values are built around delivering the best available technology to manage the environment.

The United States needs to develop its unconventional resources, including oil shale. Utah is now in a position to demonstrate responsible and sustainable development of oil shale. Environmental protection and energy development are not mutually exclusive; rather, it is possible and imperative that we pursue these objectives in concert. In managing our resources, we must consider that it is equally important to protect our access to resources as a priority for economic development and energy security. Stifling development of these resources will be harmful to our energy future, limit technological advance, and eliminate opportunities for positive net sum outcomes for energy and the environment. I encourage the Division of Oil Gas and Mining to expeditiously finalize the permit for Red Leaf Resources so that timely production of resources can be realized.

Sincerely,



Kevin T Van Tassell
Utah Senator District 26